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ISAAC T. HEISEY AND HIS FAMILY

by

John W. Heisey

1960

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FOREWORD

ISAAC T. HEISEY AND HIS FAMILY

This little booklet is produced in an attempt to bring together such information as is available concerning the family of Isaac T. Heisey, his ancestors, and his descendants.

The information contained herein was gathered from a variety of sources, and I am especially grateful to Mr. M. Luther Heisey for his help on the background of the Heisey family and to Miss Caroline A. Slotter for her information on the Tyson family. In addition, I wish to thank all members of the family for their cooperation, and thanks are especially due to Mrs. Anna R. Ritchie for her help in preparing this booklet in its final form.

I ask your pardon for any mistakes which may appear in this booklet and wish to state that this is not the work of a skilled writer --- merely a small offering for the benefit of the family and other interested parties. Therefore, if any mistakes are noted, please accept them as unintentional. It is hoped that this booklet will be of interest to all members of the family, and it is further hoped that interested persons will aid in preserving and enlarging the information so far brought together.

York Springs, Pennsylvania
December 1960

John W. Heisey

Chapter I

ISAAC T. HEISEY

Isaac T. Heisey was born 20 January, 1868, in Conoy Township, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania; the fourth child of Henry S. Heisey and his second wife, Lydia W. Tyson. The Heiseys were River Brethren farmers in Lancaster County, while the Tysons were River Brethren farmers in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania.

Young Isaac Heisey spent his early years on the farm in Lancaster County and received a small amount of schooling at a nearby country school. Being of German stock and living in an all-German neighborhood, Isaac Heisey was taught in the "Pennsylvania Dutch" dialect, and this dialect was also spoken in the home. Life was strict and there was little time for play. The Heisey children helped their parents on the farm and lived by the strict code of the River Brethren.

About 1880, a number of the River Brethren moved from Conoy Township to Monroe Township in Cumberland County, Pennsylvania. They banded together under the leadership of Reverend Jacob Engle, the head of their small congregation, and settled on farms in the vicinity of Williams Grove and Grantham, Cumberland County. Reverend Engle had come to Cumberland County several years previously and had bought up some farms. One of these farms was later bought by Henry S. Heisey and here the Heisey family moved from Lancaster County. The farm was an old one with a house on it built in 1787 by a member of the Brandt family, and the old brick house and small stone summerhouse nearby are still standing. Here the Heisey children worked and grew up, getting a bit of schooling in the nearby Maple Grove School where they learned to speak English.

Other members of the River Brethren community settled nearby and soon spread over the countryside around Grantham, Williams Grove and Mechanicsburg where their descendants still live.

In 1892, Isaac T. Heisey married Adella Cora Evans, a daughter of Joseph K. Evans, blacksmith, Civil War veteran and Justice of the Peace. Isaac Heisey and his new bride moved into a small farmhouse just across the Yellow Breeches Creek from the family farm in Cumberland County. Here Isaac farmed and started raising a family. He also began working on the Reading Railroad which ran through his farm and soon worked his way up to become a section foreman, responsible for a large section of track between Boiling Springs and Grantham. This position he held for almost forty years, during part of which time he was also a railroad detective for the Reading Line.

As the farm prospered and work on the railroad continued, Isaac Heisey invested his savings and bought several houses at the Dillsburg and Mechanicsburg Junction. At first these houses were rented out, but later on Isaac moved into one of these houses and rented out his farm. Here at the D & M Junction he and his family lived until the death of his wife in 1936. After this bitter blow, Isaac Heisey lived among his children until his death in 1938.

Chapter II

THE HEISEY FAMILY

The beginnings of the Heisey family are lost in history; but from all known facts, traditions and surmises, it appears likely that the family came from either Switzerland or Germany. At the present time, it is known that there are at least thirteen different Heise families in Germany and one in Denmark. However, it has not been possible to trace our branch of the family to one of these branches.

The Heisey family to which we belong has been traced so far as is possible. This family has always been of either the Mennonite or River Brethren faith and we can assume that their religion was the chief cause for their migrating to America. As the family was a part of the little River Brethren colony in Conoy Township, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, and of the early Mennonite settlement in Lebanon Township, Lebanon County, Pennsylvania, it seems very probable that the family was either Swiss or German. This probability is strengthened by the fact that the family spoke German or "Pennsylvania Dutch" dialect until they came to Cumberland County.

The first mention of the name of Heisey appears in the book, "A List of Upwards of Thirty Thousand Names of German, Swiss, Dutch and other Immigrants to Pennsylvania 1727 - 1776", published in 1876 by I. D. Rupp. In this book mention is made of the arrival of the ship "Adventure" from Rotterdam with immigrants for Pennsylvania. The ship landed its passengers at Philadelphia on 2 October 1727. Among the passengers was one Hans Hisly. As only those male passengers of fifteen years of age and upwards were listed, we know that Hans Hisly was at least fifteen years old.

H O P E

Page 4 line 8 should be changed to read

"of men who were fined for not appearing at the
annual meeting"

The next mention we find of Heiseys in America is in the Pennsylvania Archives. In 1748, a grant of two hundred acres of land was made to John Heise of Lebanon Township, Lancaster (now Lebanon) County, Pennsylvania.

We find the name of Heise mentioned many times in the Pennsylvania Archives from the middle to the latter part of the eighteenth century. The name appears in lists of men who were fined for not appearing at the annual militia muster and drill periods of the Lancaster County militia. In these lists appear the names of John Heise, Senior (above age) and John Heise, Junior, as well as other members of the Heise family. Other Mennonite and River Brethren family names, such as Berg and Yordy, appear in these lists. We can get some idea of the age of these Heise men when we remember that the militia requirements were for all males between the ages of fifteen and forty-five. From this, it would appear that John Heise, Senior, was over forty-five years of age.

From the above, it is evident that the Heisey family was living in Pennsylvania for some years prior to the Revolutionary War. Attempts to trace the family in Europe have been unsuccessful, and it is only with John Heise, Junior, that we can trace our family by complete records. However, we must remember that Mennonite families were severely persecuted in Europe and the keeping of records could not be done if individuals of that faith were to be protected from imprisonment or death. So it is that records of the family are scarce.

The earliest complete records of the Heisey family are found in the Lancaster County Historical Society papers where the family bible of John Heise, Junior, with its hand-written record of the births of the children is found. This old family record is written in the old-fashioned German script.

(Second Generation)

It is known that John Heise, Junior, married Barbara Yordy, a daughter of Jacob Yordy and Anna Doner. It appears that John Heise, Junior, was born about 1727, and it is known that he died in March 1800. His wife survived him only a short time. To John and Barbara Heise were born the following children:

- a. Peter, born 6 May 1753.
- b. Magdalena, born 16 September 1754, married Christian Stickley.
- c. John, born 4 November 1755.
- d. Christian, born 20 May 1757, married Veronica Meyer, and moved to Heise Hill, Markham Township, York County, Ontario, in 1804 with other River Brethren. Christian Heise died in 1830.
- e. Henry, born 4 May 1759, married Maria Gingrich, died 27 March 1849.
- f. Jacob, born 4 April 1761, married Hannah Meyer, a sister of his brother Christian's wife. Jacob Heise moved to the River Brethren settlement in Canada in 1805. He died 26 May 1832.
- g. Martin, born 8 August 1762.
- h. Daniel, born 6 April 1768, married Susanna Berg, died 12 September 1840.
- i. Barbara, born 17 April 1771.
- j. Joseph, born 24 September 1772, moved to the River Brethren settlement in Canada in 1806. Joseph died 6 May 1841.

(Third Generation)

Daniel Heise, son of John and Barbara Heise, married Susanna Berg (born 11 August 1771; died 5 April 1837) a daughter of Jacob and Catherine Berg, members of the Mennonite and later River Brethren church. To Daniel and Susanna Heise were born the following children:

- a. Barbara B., born 25 July 1800, married Peter Lehman, died 7 May 1878.
- b. Jacob B., born 20 January 1802, married Elizabeth Lehman, died 6 March 1884.
- c. Catherine B., born 3 January 1804, married Michael Shenk, died 22 February 1894.
- d. Daniel B., born 15 February 1806, married Catherine Seifert of Middletown, died 2 May 1879.
- e. Henry B., born 26 August 1808, married Catherine Wohlgemuth, died 23 May 1896.
- f. John B., born 7 January 1814.

(Fourth Generation)

Daniel B. Heisey was a deacon in the River Brethren or Brethren in Christ Church, and broke with this church during an argument which split the church. After this split, Daniel became a member of the United Zion's Children church and was a minister in that church for many years until his death. Daniel B. Heisey married Catherine Seifert (born 13 November 1808; died 30 April 1880), of Middletown, Dauphin County, Pennsylvania. To Daniel and Catherine Heisey were born the following children:

- a. Fanny S., born 31 December 1829; died 29 January 1851.
- b. Henry S., born 13 November 1831, married first Annie Bryan; second Lydia W. Tyson; died in March 1907.
- c. Christian S., born 27 October 1833, married Levina Lane, died 21 June 1907.
- d. Daniel S., born 14 March 1836, married Martha Musser, died 10 December 1914.
- e. Sarah S., born 9 September 1838, married Joseph K. Heisey, died 13 March 1912.
- f. Joseph S., born 9 November 1840, died 14 October 1844.

g. Abram S., born 31 December 1843, died 9 October 1844.

h. Christiana S., twin to Abram S., born 31 December 1843, died 28 February 1844.

i. Mary S., born 8 August 1845, married Benjamin B. Heisey, died 10 May 1935.

j. Levi S., born 19 May 1848, married Mary Tyson, a sister of his brother Henry's wife, died in 1920.

k. Lydia S., born 5 December 1850, died 12 January 1929.

(Fifth Generation)

Henry S. Heisey, a farmer and member of the River Brethren church, lived in Conoy Township, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, near Bainbridge. He married Annie Bryan, a River Brethren girl, and to this couple were born the following children:

a. Elizabeth B., born 26 December 1856, married Samuel Byers.

b. Ephraim B., born 2 October 1858, married a Miss Rupp, died 17 December 1946.

After the death of his first wife, Henry S. Heisey married Lydia W. Tyson (born 11 August 1836, died 12 December 1903) a daughter of Isaac B. Tyson and Anna Wismer, members of the River Brethren church in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania. To Henry and Lydia Heisey were born the following children:

a. Annie T., born 22 November 1862, married Henry Brubaker, died 21 June 1934. (Their son, Reverend Henry Brubaker, was a missionary in Africa for many years and is now the overseer of the River Brethren Home in Harrisburg.)

b. Reuben T., born 5 July 1864, married Anna Baker.

c. Daniel T., born 21 March 1866, married Catherine McQuate, moved to Canada and lived near Kitchner, Ontario. Daniel died 14 January 1934.

d. Isaac T., born 20 January 1868, married Adella Cora Evans, died 14 September 1938.

e. Henry T., born 20 September 1869, married Melissa Miller, died 8 November 1932.

f. Noah T., born 15 December 1871.

g. Emma T., born 13 October 1873, married a Mr. Hamer.

h. Levi T., born 2 May 1880.

(Sixth Generation)

Isaac T. Heisey married Adella Cora Evans (born 17 December 1872, died 17 June 1936) a daughter of Joseph K. Evans and Martha Jane Lau of near Dillsburg, Pennsylvania. To Isaac and Adella Heisey were born the following children.

a. Joseph Henry, born 17 April 1893, married Esther Baker, died 17 November 1959.

b. James Percival, born 17 September 1894, married Mary E. Arnold, died 12 February 1960.

c. Chester Harold, born 30 August 1899, married Mildred Haar.

d. Almeda Jane, born 28 September 1904, married William H. Darr.

e. Isaac Wilbur, born 23 November 1910, married Alberta Baldwin.

JOSEPH HENRY HEISEY FAMILY

(Seventh Generation)

Joseph Henry Heisey married Esther Belle Baker (born 19 June 1895), a daughter of John Baker and Lilly May Anthony of York County, Pennsylvania. To Joseph and Esther Heisey were born the following children:

- a. Carroll Wayne, born 18 July 1923, married Mary Ellen Guise, presently living in Lancaster, Pennsylvania.
- b. John William, born 14 November 1925, presently in the United States Army in Washington, D. C.

(Eighth Generation)

Carroll Wayne Heisey married Mary Ellen Guise (born 21 September 1923), a daughter of Emory S. Guise and Edith Lobaugh, of York Springs, Pennsylvania. To Carroll and Mary Heisey were born the following children:

- a. Theodore Wayne, born 5 March 1950.
- b. Pamela Ann, born 7 March 1954.
- c. Jennifer Louise, born 3 May 1960.

JAMES PERCIVAL HEISEY FAMILY

(Seventh Generation)

James Percival Heisey married Mary Elizabeth Arnold (born 12 July 1893), a daughter of Luther Henry Arnold and Rebecca Pipher of Cumberland County. To J. Percy and Mary Heisey were born the following children:

- a. Robert Arnold, born 17 May 1917, married Troy Barbour, presently living in Bakersfield, California.
- b. Dorothy Adella, born 16 November 1918, married Floyd Marshall Mains, presently living in Shipensburg, Pennsylvania.
- c. Charles Edward, born 17 February 1920, married Esther Mae Fanus, presently in the United States Air Force in Colorado.
- d. Anna Rebbecca, born 13 January 1923, married George Wilbur Ritchie.
- e. James David, born 26 August 1928, married Olive Margaret Hatch, presently living in New Jersey.
- f. Jacob Luther, born 29 October 1934, married Ina Heller.

(Eighth Generation)

Robert Arnold Heisey married Troy Barbour, a daughter of Bruce Andrew Barbour and Mary Elizabeth Holley of Bakersfield, California. To Robert and Troy Heisey were born the following children:

- a. Sherry Dee, born 15 February 1946.
- b. Kurt Arnold, born 27 February 1951.

Dorothy Adella Heisey married Floyd Marshall Mains, a son of Robert Mains and Irene Black of Cumberland County, Pennsylvania. To Dorothy and Floyd Mains were born the following children:

- a. Lois Carolyn, born 26 June 1943.
- b. Barbara Eileen, born 7 August 1947.

Charles Edward Heisey married Esther Mae Fanus, a daughter of Paul Fanus and Alma Hoover of Cumberland County, Pennsylvania. To Charles and Esther Heisey were born the following children:

- a. Sandra Jo, born 28 November 1949.
- b. Edward Alan, born 17 December 1950.
- c. Janice Lynne, born 14 December 1952.

Anna Rebecca Heisey married George Wilbur Ritchie, a son of Daniel B. Ritchie and Helen Gertrude Gossard of Cumberland County, Pennsylvania. To Anna and George Ritchie were born the following children:

- a. Sharon Elizabeth, born 15 November 1946.

James David Heisey married Olive Margaret Hatch, a daughter of Lewis Arthur Hatch and Helen Smith Sharpe of Norwich, England. To James and Olive Heisey were born the following children:

- a. Margaret Anne, born 2 April 1956.
- b. Bradley Karl, born 25 November 1959.

Jacob Luther Heisey married Ina Heller, a daughter of Cloyd V. Heller and Mary Kimmel of Cumberland County, Pennsylvania. To Jacob and Ina Heisey were born the following children:

- a. Bradford Tyson, born 11 August 1960.

CHESTER HAROLD HEISEY FAMILY

(Seventh Generation)

Chester Harold Heisey married Mildred Haar (born 5 April 1899), a daughter of George S. Haar and Mary J. Shaefer. To Chester and Mildred Heisey was born the following child:

- a. Gene Marian, born 16 February 1926, married John Robert Gibney.

(Eighth Generation)

Gene Marian Heisey married John Robert Gibney, a son of George and Mary Gibney, and to them were born the following children:

- a. Carolyn Gene, born 9 February 1947.

ALMEDA JANE (HEISEY) DARR FAMILY

(Seventh Generation)

Almeda Jane Heisey married William H. Darr (born 17 July 1904), a son of Cletus A. Darr and Nora S. Yohn of York County, Pennsylvania. To William and Almeda Darr were born the following children:

- a. LeRoy Albert, born 10 January 1928, married Esther Irene Spahr.
- b. Arthur Eugene, born 21 November 1929, married Doris Aletha Wert. Arthur is presently in the United States Navy in Virginia.
- c. Alberta Lorraine, born 22 February 1932, married Earl William Mann, Jr. Alberta is a nurse at State College, Pennsylvania.
- d. Kenneth Edward, born 13 September 1935, married Mildred Irene Tate.
- e. Patricia Adella, born 12 March 1937, married Curtis Elwood Friedline.
- f. Duane Austin, born 8 November 1944.
- g. Beverly Jean, born 30 August 1946.

(Eighth Generation)

LeRoy Albert Darr married Esther Irene Spahr (born 14 December 1929), a daughter of Harry Spahr and Annie Laird. To LeRoy and Esther Darr were born the following children:

- a. Linda Yvonne, born 15 December 1948.
- b. Carol Ann, born 1 August 1950.
- c. Deborah Kay, born 1 March 1952.
- d. Cathy Jean, born 27 March 1956.

Arthur Eugene Darr married Doris Aletha Wert (born 1 June 1932), a daughter of Jesse and Lucinda Wert. To Arthur and Doris Darr were born the following children:

- a. Gary Eugene, born 22 February 1952.
- b. Ronald Lee, born 14 December 1953.
- c. Alan Leonard, born 26 December 1958.

Alberta Lorraine Darr married Earl William Mann, Jr. (born 6 September 1931), a son of Earl W. Mann, Sr., and Hazel E. Swartz. To Earl and Alberta Mann were born the following children:

- a. Marcus Eric, born 15 August 1958.
- b. Alexander William, born 5 February, 1960.

Kenneth Edward Darr married Mildred Irene Tate (born 16 September 1936), a daughter of Ralph and Emma Tate. To Kenneth and Mildred Darr were born the following children:

- a. Keith Edward, born 14 December 1955.
- b. Cheri Lorraine, born 18 August 1957.
- c. Timothy Brian, born 3 September 1960.

Patricia Adella Darr married Curtis Elwood Friedline (born 31 December 1935), a son of Edward R. Friedline and Helen A. McMaster. To Curtis and Patricia Friedline were born the following children:

- a. Craig Elwood, born 8 July 1956.
- b. Catherine Ellen, born 16 November 1958.

ISAAC WILBUR HEISEY FAMILY

(Seventh Generation)

Isaac Wilbur Heisey married Alberta Catherine Baldwin (born 15 November 1909), a daughter of James E. Baldwin and Anna Mary Bankus. To Isaac and Alberta Heisey was born the following child:

- a. Marian Adella, born 16 September 1939. Marian is presently a nurse at Harrisburg State Hospital.

Chapter III

REUNIONS OF THE ISAAC TYSON HEISEY FAMILY

In the late 1920's, Isaac T. Heisey began holding annual reunions of his growing family in an attempt to get together at least once yearly all his children and grandchildren. These reunions were held at various picnic spots in York and Cumberland Counties in the vicinity of Dillsburg or Williams Grove. After the death of Isaac Heisey in 1938, the reunions were discontinued until after World War II when the members of the family began the annual reunions again.

The first of the post-war reunions was held at Huntsdale, Cumberland County in 1952. Since that time a reunion has been held every year, with the exception of 1955.

Following are the dates of the reunions held by the Isaac T. Heisey family since World War II:

- a. 1952 - Carmount Lodge, Huntsdale, Pennsylvania.
- b. 1953 - Eureka Grange near Dillsburg, Pennsylvania.
- c. 1954 - Carmount Lodge.
- d. 1955 - Cancelled, due to sickness in several families.
- e. 1956 - Coover Park, Dillsburg, Pennsylvania.
- f. 1957 - Rod and Gun Club near Dillsburg.
- g. 1958 - Rod and Gun Club near Dillsburg.
- h. 1959 - Rod and Gun Club near Dillsburg.
- i. 1960 - Coover Park, Dillsburg.

The annual reunion has become a family institution and it is held each year on the last Sunday in July. At the latest reunion (1960) almost fifty direct descendants of Isaac T. Heisey and Adella Cora Evans were present, and not all the living descendants were able to attend. This is an excellent showing for the family.

Chapter IV

THE HEISEY FAMILY AND MILITARY SERVICE

Until the twentieth century, the majority of the Heiseys were members of the River Brethren Church and refused to bear arms, this being one of the doctrines of their church. Therefore, it is not strange that we do not find records of them having served during the American wars. Although their names are found in Pennsylvania Archives militia rosters, they did not serve, but paid their fines. It was not until World War I that any of our branch of the Heisey family entered the military service, and then it was against the will of the family.

World War I

Joseph Henry Heisey served from 1918 to 1919 in the 93rd Spruce Squadron, United States Army Air Service, in the states of Washington and Oregon. He was a teamster and lumberjack, cutting down spruce trees for airplane frames.

World War II

During World War II the following members of the Heisey family served in the United States military service:

- a. Isaac W. Heisey, United States Navy in the Atlantic Ocean area.
- b. Robert Arnold Heisey, United States Army, first in the Air Force and later in the Infantry.
- c. Charles E. Heisey, United States Army Air Force in Europe as a pilot. Presently serving in the United States Air Force as a Major in Colorado.
- d. Carroll W. Heisey, United States Army Signal Corps in the South Pacific area and later in the Army of Occupation in Japan.

- e. John W. Heisey, United States Army in the Infantry in Europe. Wounded in the fighting in Germany. Presently serving in the United States Army.
- f. LeRoy A. Darr, United States Navy.

Post World War II

Since World War II, either in the peacetime service or during the Korean War, the following members of the Heisey family have served in the military service:

- a. Major Charles E. Heisey, United States Air Force.
- b. Sergeant First Class John W. Heisey, United States Army.
- c. Petty Officer First Class Arthur Darr, United States Navy, Naval Air Service.
- d. Quartermaster First Class Isaac W. Heisey, United States Navy.
- e. James D. Heisey, United States Air Force.
- f. Jacob L. Heisey, United States Army.
- g. Kenneth E. Darr, United States Navy.

Although no members of the Heisey family served in the Civil War, the father of Adella Cora Evans did serve in the Union Army. Joseph K. Evans enlisted on 20 July 1864 for one hundred days service in Company G, 194th Regiment, Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry. He served a short time in this unit in Baltimore, Maryland, on guard duty and then reenlisted in an Independent Company commanded by Captain William Jones. This Independent Company was assigned to the 97th Regiment, Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry, but spent its entire tour of duty in Baltimore on guard duty. Joseph K. Evans was mustered out of service as a Private on 17 June 1865.

Chapter V

TRADITIONS OF THE HEISEY FAMILY

Every family has its traditions which have been handed down for generations. Some of these traditions are true and others are not; however, it is difficult to determine which of them are to be disregarded. The Heisey family is not without its traditions, and they are given here for information and any interest they may have.

When the River Brethren group moved from Lancaster County to Cumberland County, it is related that the Heisey family came in a Conestoga wagon and that they crossed the Susquehanna River on the ice.

Tradition also has it that the first Heisey to come to America was born in Darmstadt, Germany, or near there. So far no proof of this has been found.

Chapter VI

NOTES ON RELIGIONS

In tracing the background of the Heisey family, it will be noted that the majority of the Heiseys have been of the River Brethren faith. This was true of the family until at least the latter part of the nineteenth century. Before the founding of the River Brethren, the Heiseys were Mennonites. We find this similarity of faiths in the Tyson family. Because of this long adherence to these two religions, it is felt that a short description of each of these religions would not be out of place in this booklet. It is also felt that a knowledge of these religions will be of help in understanding the family itself.

The Mennonites

This religious group had its beginning in January 1525. At that time a group of Swiss citizens, under the leadership of George Blaurock, Conrad Grebel, Felix Miantz and others banded together for religious reasons and called themselves "Brethren" (Swiss Brethren). Other people called them "Taufers" or "Baptists" after their practice of baptizing their converts. This small group disapproved of changes in church organization and doctrine in the Catholic Church and believed that the church had lost the simplicity and true teachings of the Christian way of life. In addition, this group did not recognize infant baptism as proper, not finding it in the Scriptures. They rebaptized their followers and from this were called "Anabaptists" or "Rebaptizers". In 1534 an Anabaptist congregation was organized in Holland under Obbe Philips and two years later Menno Simons, a converted Catholic priest, was baptized by Obbe Philips. Menno Simons soon became a leader in the Anabaptist church and from his name comes the present name of Mennonites.

The Catholic Church considered the Anabaptists or Mennonites an evil to be stamped out, and so did the newly-formed Protestant churches in Europe. A great number of Anabaptists were tortured to death, burned at the stake, imprisoned, exiled or sold as galley slaves or soldiers to foreign nations. In spite of this terrible persecution, the Anabaptists continued to follow their chosen faith. In Switzerland especially, the Anabaptists were particularly hated for their refusal to bear arms. Since the Swiss mercenary soldiers fighting in foreign armies were a mainstay of the Swiss economic life, the refusal to bear arms by the Anabaptists was considered undesirable.

When it was found that persecution had little effect on the Anabaptists, or Mennonites as they were being called, the Swiss turned to exile to rid themselves of these stubborn people. The Mennonites were ordered to leave, and they migrated to Germany and settled along the west bank of the Rhine River. This area was open for settlement since the dreadful Thirty Years' War (1618-1648) had devastated the land and the inhabitants had fled. The Mennonites soon had the land in a high state of cultivation and they settled down to a new life. Toward the end of the seventeenth century invasions by the French destroyed much of the land and again the Mennonites were persecuted. Again they were forced to look for new homes and freedom.

About this time settlers were being sought for the new land of Pennsylvania and a group of Mennonites under the leadership of Francis Daniel Pastorius migrated to Pennsylvania and founded a small settlement outside of Philadelphia, calling it Germantown. This town was begun in 1683. Soon thereafter more Mennonites from Switzerland and Germany, Holland and England, followed and took up land in the area comprising the counties of Berks, Bucks, Montgomery, Lebanon and Lancaster in Pennsylvania and parts of Maryland and Virginia.

During the Revolutionary War numbers of Mennonites left Pennsylvania for Canada. This migration continued into the early part of the nineteenth century. This removal was prompted by the lack of land in Pennsylvania and by the insistence of the state on their belonging to the state militia. Land was readily available in Canada and the government relieved the new settlers from serving in the militia. This Mennonite settlement in Canada was in York County, Ontario, in the vicinity of Hamilton and Kitchener. Today this area is similar in atmosphere to the "Pennsylvania Dutch" country, with the same type barns, dialect and nonconformity in dress of the Mennonites and River Brethren.

The River Brethren

In 1770 a religious revival took place in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, under the sponsorship of the Lutherans, Mennonites and other religious groups. Among the Mennonites, many of the people disapproved of the formalism in the church and agreed with the teachings of John and Jacob Engle against this formalism. Many conversions to their teaching took place and a split in the Mennonite Church developed. Forced out of the Mennonite Church for this different viewpoint, Jacob Engle baptized his converts and a new church was begun. The church in Lancaster County grew and congregations sprang up in Bucks and Montgomery Counties. All these congregations looked to the original group which was located along the Susquehanna River in Lancaster County for guidance. From this comes the name "River Brethren". A minister for the group was needed and the choice fell to Jacob Engle who became the first minister of the River Brethren. The groups did not spread very much, except for a small group which moved from Lancaster County to Cumberland County in the latter part of the nineteenth century. Another small group moved to Ontario, Canada.

Disagreement in doctrines occurred in the River Brethren Church and two groups broke away from the parent church. The first group, in York County, Pennsylvania, became known as the "Yorkers" and followed the traditional, very strict teachings of the Engles, while the others were more moderate. This group of "Yorkers" broke away in the early 1840's. The second split in the River Brethren Church occurred in 1853 due to a disagreement over the building of a church. The conservative group did not believe a church was necessary, while the group under Mathias Brinser was of the opinion that such a building was a necessity. The split widened and the group under Brinser withdrew. At first they were called "Brinsers", but later became known as the "United Zion's Children", which name has become their official title. The United Zion's Children are found principally in Dauphin, Lebanon, and Lancaster Counties, Pennsylvania.

The River Brethren and Mennonites share many beliefs and these include foot-washing in conjunction with the Lord's Supper, the baptism of adults upon joining the church; non-resistance; non-conformity in dress; prayer veiling for women; and refusal to use oaths, to participate in politics or to use the courts unless in extreme circumstances.

While the River Brethren have had only two splits, the Mennonite Church has had numerous breaks and splits and at the present time recognizes at least twenty different Mennonite bodies in the United States. The most familiar of these groups is that of the Amish Mennonites in Lancaster County with their strict adherence to the original teachings and ways of the founder of their group.

The chief difference found in these two groups is in baptism. The Mennonites believe that pouring is sufficient for baptizing their converts, while the River Brethren hold that baptism can only be done by immersing the candidate for baptism three times.

Chapter VII

THE TYSON FAMILY

The earliest record of any Tyson coming to America is that of Reynier Tiesen, a Dutch Mennonite who came to Germantown with the earliest German settlers. Reynier later became a Quaker. His name appears among those men naturalized in the late 1690's in Germantown, along with Francis Daniel Pastorius. Although he is not known to be related to the Tysons who were the ancestors of Lydia W. Tyson, wife of Henry S. Heisey, it appears likely that Reynier and the other Tyson families were related, inasmuch as they used similar Dutch names throughout their early generations.

A later arrival in Germantown was a Dutch Mennonite named Cornelius Tiesen, born in Crefeld, Germany, of Dutch parents in 1652. It is known that he was living in Germantown as early as 1703. A tombstone erected over his grave and written in Dutch, in Axe's Burying Ground, Germantown, is reputed to be the oldest gravestone over a German grave in Pennsylvania. Cornelius Tiesen died in 1716. To Cornelius and his wife Margaret were born the following children:

- a. Matthias, born in Crefeld, Germany, married to Barbara Sellen, died in 1766.
- b. Barbara, married Madtis (Matthias) Conders.
- c. Aeltje, married John Cunrads.
- d. Williamptje, married Paul Engle.
- e. Yaniken (Jane), married Laurentz Hendricks.

Matthias Tiesen (Tyson) married Barbara Sellen, a daughter of Hendrick Sellen, one of the founders of Germantown. To Matthias and Barbara Tyson were born the following children:

a. Cornelius, married Barbara Pannebecker.
(Pennypacker).

b. John, married Susanna Updegrave, a daughter
of Abraham Updegrave.

c. Henry, married Madeline Kuster.

d. Margaret, married Jacobus Pannebecker.

e. William, born about 1722, married Alice (Elise)
Nash.

f. Benjamin.

g. Joseph, married first Ann Nash, a sister to his
brother William's wife; and second Hannah Updegrave, a
sister to his brother John's wife.

h. Peter, married Catherine --- . Peter died before
6 April 1766.

William Tyson married Alice Nash, a daughter of
William Nash. To William and Alice Tyson were born the
following children:

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a. Matthias.

b. Joseph.

c. Ann, married Jacob Casselbury.

d. Magdalena, married Richard Umsted.

e. Mary, married Jacob Shoemaker.

f. Elizabeth, married Henry Peters.

g. Barbara, married Michael Ziegler.

h. John.

i. Catherine, married Abraham Huntsperger.

j. William.

k. Isaac N., born 27 October 1766, married first
Sarah Fry; and second Barbara Borneman. Isaac N. Tyson
died 3 March 1823.

Isaac N. Tyson married Sarah Fry, and to this couple
were born five children, whose names are not known.

After the death of his first wife, Isaac N. Tyson married Barbara Borneman (Born about 1777, died 3 September 1854), a daughter of Christian Borneman and Mary Hiestand. To Isaac and Barbara Tyson were born the following children:

- a. Isaac B., born 26 October 1804, married Ann Wismer, died 5 January 1882.
- b. Henry B., born 1 July 1806, married Barbara Gotwals, died 6 January 1884.
- c. Lydia B., born in 1808, married a Mr. Kulp.
- d. John B., born in 1810.
- e. Barbara B., born in 1814.

Isaac B. Tyson, a member of the River Brethren Church, married Ann Wismer (born 10 May 1806; died in 1890), a daughter of Joseph and Barbara Wismer. To Isaac and Ann Tyson were born the following children:

- a. Benjamin, died at the age of 19.
- b. Enos W., married Sarah Raudenbush.
- c. Isaac, died at the age of 18.
- d. Barbara, died when young.
- e. Lydia W., born 11 August 1836, married Henry S. Heisey, died 12 December 1903.
- f. Reuben, born about 1839.
- g. Emmeline, born 1 March 1840, married Daniel P. Kinsell.
- h. Mary A., born about 1842, married Levi S. Heisey, a brother of her sister Lydia's husband.
- i. John, died at the age of 16.
- j. Harriet, born 2 November 1844, married George Detweiler of Canada.

Chapter VIII

THE EVANS FAMILY

At the present time, information on the background of the Evans family is incomplete. However, it has been learned that the family is Welsh and came to Pennsylvania at an early date. Following is the information presently available on the ancestors of Adella Cora Evans who married Isaac T. Heisey.

Joseph Evans, a wagonmaker, was born 4 March 1804. He married Margaret Wonders (born 2 April 1807); died 15 May 1871). Joseph Evans died 1 May 1878. To Joseph and Margaret Evans were born the following children (these are known; there may be others).

- a. Elizabeth, born about 1833.
- b. Jacob, born about 1836.
- c. John W., born 17 September 1842, married Elizabeth Kinter, died 16 March 1920. John W. Evans was a Civil War veteran and lived in or near Dillsburg, Pennsylvania.
- d. George W., born 2 March 1844, married Lydia A. Miller, died 5 January 1922. George W. Evans lived in or near Dillsburg, Pennsylvania.
- e. Joseph, born 25 September 1845, married Martha Jane Lau, died 16 May 1921. Joseph Evans was a blacksmith, a justice of the peace, and was a Civil War veteran. He lived in Dillsburg for some years.
- f. Margaret, born about 1847.
- g. Mary, born about 1852.

Joseph Evans married Martha Jane Lau (born 1 April 1847; died 26 April 1933), a daughter of Abraham and Magdalena Lau. To Joseph and Martha Jane Evans were born the following children:

- a. John A., born 19 January 1867, married
Alice Yohn.
- b. Elizabeth A., born 8 March 1869, married
David Hunter.
- c. Lilly M., born 12 February 1871, married
John Wentz, died in 1946.
- d. Adella Cora, born 17 December 1872, married
Isaac T. Heisey, died 17 June 1936.
- e. Elverda S., born 4 January 1878, married
Raphael R. Sites.
- f. Martha M., born 16 July 1880, married
William Lockard, died in 1943.
